

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 04380 161923Z

71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 TRSE-00 AID-20 PA-04 PRS-01

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R 161648Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3828

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB VE

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA PROHIBITS FOR 30 DAYS
THE DISMISSAL OF WORKERS

1. IN A DECREE OF MAY 15 DESIGNED TO PREVENT THE DISMISSAL OF WORKERS PENDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACROSS-THE-BOARD WAGE INCREASE ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT PEREZ APRIL 29, THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROHIBITED FOR THIRTY DAYS THE FIRING OR DOWNGRADING OF EMPLOYEES WITHOUT THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL LABOR INSPECTORS.

2. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT ORGANIZED LABOR STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE ECONOMIC PROGRAM ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT PEREZ, LEADERS OF THE VENEZUELAN CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS ARE DISTURBED AT REPORTS THAT AS MANY AS 25,000 WORKERS HAVE BEEN DISMISSED FROM THEIR JOBS BY EMPLOYERS SEEKING TO CUT PAYROLL COSTS PRIOR TO THE OFFICIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATORY PAY INCREASES. SOME OF THESE DISMISSALS OCCURRED APRIL 28 AS ADVANCE WORD ON THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH LEAKED TO BUSINESS CIRCLES. HOWEVER, THERE ARE CONTINUING REPORTS OF DISMISSALS IN SPITE OF THE STATEMENT IN THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH OF APRIL 29 THAT EMPLOYMENT STABILITY WOULD BE GUARANTEED FOR 180 DAYS AND THIS DECREE IS OBVIOUSLY AN ATTEMPT TO ENFORCE THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS.

MCCLINTOCK

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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